

## Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 IO-14 USIA-15  
COME-00 TRSE-00 NSC-05 HEW-06 OIC-02 OES-07 /073 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8272

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

UNCLAS DACCA 1270

ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, OVIP, FAO, BG

SUBJ: FAO AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION,  
SECOND SESSION, ROME, MARCH 6-10, 1978

REF: STATE 46291

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON BDG JOINT SECRETARY FOR AGRICULTURE SHAHED LATIEF MARCH 1 TO EXPRESS U.S. VIEWS ON FAO AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING AND NUTRITION AND OUTLINE POINTS IN REF-TEL. LATIEF, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF AGRICULTURAL PLANNING, WILL REPRESENT BANGLADESH AT THE ROME MEETING. AN ECONOMIST BY BACKGROUND, HE RECENTLY COMPLETED AN M.A. AT THE KENNEDY SCHOOL AT HARVARD. HE HAS NO TRAINING IN NUTRITION.

2. LATIEF SAID BANGLADESH STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTION FAO CAN MAKE TO NUTRITION IN NEEDIEST LDCS LIKE BANGLADESH IS THROUGH A GLOBAL APPROACH TO INCREASING PRODUCTION OF CGPRT CROPS (COARSE GRAINS, PULSES, ROOTS, TUBERS). HE SAID EXTERNAL AID IN THE FORM OF PLANNING FOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS, IMPORTED FOODS FOR FEEDING PROGRAMS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO NUTRITION ARE OF LITTLE VALUE WITHOUT ADEQUATE LOCAL PRODUCTION  
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OF CGPRT CROPS. FAO SHOULD THEREFORE CONCENTRATE NUTRITION EFFORTS ON INCREASED CGPRT PRODUCTION; IT SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO ASSUME OVERALL RESPONSIBILITY AMONG INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES FOR NUTRITION, WHICH ENCOMPASSES MANY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PHENOMENA OUTSIDE THE AGRICULTURAL SPHERE.

3. LATIEF SAID INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF CGPRT CROPS HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED BECAUSE OF CONCENTRATION ON "GREEN REVOLUTION" FOODGRAIN PRUDUC-TION. BANGLADESH SUFFERS FROM THIS UNBALANCED APPROACH. FOR THIS REASON BDG HAS TAKEN THE INITIATIVE WITHIN FAO AND ESCAP TO PROMOTE A NEW ESCAP/FAO INSTITUTE FOR CGPRT CROPS FOR HUMID CLIMATES. THIS PROJECT HAS BEEN ACCEPTED, ALTHOUGH NOT YET FUNDED, AND THERE ARE PLANS TO ESTABLISH THE INSTITUTE IN BOGOR, INDONESIA. (THERE ARE ALSO PLANS FOR A COMPARABLE INSTITUTE FOR CGPRT CROPS FOR DRY CLIMATES AT HYDERABAD.)

4. LATIEF SAID HE WOULD PRESENT BDG VIEWS ON INCREASED FAO ROLE IN CGPRT CROP PRODUCTION AT THE ROME MEETING. BERGESEN

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## Message Attributes

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